

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-43, 45, 46, and 48-73 are pending. Claims 1-11, 13-22, 25-39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 48-55, and 56-73 have been rejected. Claim 42 has been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 12, 23, 24, and 40.

Claims 1-11, 13-22, 25-39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 48-52, and 56-73 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharrit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,990) in view of Savitzky (U.S. Patent No. 5,337,412) and Songer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,327). Claims 53-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharrit et al. in view of Savitzky and Songer, and further in view of Kwon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,328).

In the last Response, Applicant amended each of the rejected independent claims (i.e., claims 1, 13, 29, 37, 43, and 46) to recite that "each kernel is designed to perform a specific processing function." In response, the Examiner has additionally applied Songer as allegedly teaching this feature in col. 7, lines 4-7, and col. 5, line 65, through col. 6, line 18. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's position for the following reasons.

According to the portions of Songer referred to by the Examiner, the Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL) represents the configurable portion of a configurable processor and runs in the configurable processor. On the other hand, the claimed virtual machine interface (VMI) represents configurable kernels that are not part of, and do not represent any aspect of, the controller or processor in which the VMI runs.

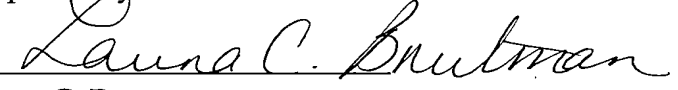
Also, Songer states in col. 7, lines 4-7, that "Different versions of the RTOS kernel objects can be provided corresponding to various combinations of these configuration options which create execution stream incompatibility." To a person of ordinary skill in the art, this statement indicates that only one of the RTOS kernel objects runs at any given time for a specific configuration of the configurable processor. On the other hand, it is clear from a reading of the claims as a whole that all of the claimed configurable kernels can run simultaneously.

The other applied references fail to make up for Songer's deficiencies. Independent claims 1, 13, 29, 37, 43, and 46, along with their dependent claims, are therefore patentable over the applied references for at least these reasons.

In view of the above, the pending application is in condition for allowance. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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